

REMARKS

Claims 11 and 23 have been cancelled, obviating the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1, 4-8, 10-13, 16-19 and 21-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Apprille, Jr. (U.S. 5,855,071, hereafter "Apprille '071"). Claims 2, 3, 14 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Apprille '071 combined with Beresford-Jones (U.S. 4,298,778). Claims 9 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Apprille, Jr. (U.S. 4,756,082, hereafter "Apprille '082") combined with Beresford-Jones, and claims 12 and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Apprille '071 combined with Jones (U.S. 6,898,855).

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 13 to recite that the flexible canopy comprises an elastomer, and that it is constructed so that a free edge of the flexible canopy contacts a wall formed by the handle casing when the release button is in an unloaded position, and the flexible canopy buckles when the button substrate is moved towards the cartridge as a user actuates the release button, causing the free end to move along the wall. None of the art of record teaches or suggests a release button with a flexible canopy having this construction.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn.

If Applicants have not addressed each and every point made by the Examiner in the office action, this does not indicate that Applicants concede these points, and Applicants reserve the right to address such issues during further prosecution.

Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 00216-664001.

Applicant : Charles B. Worrick III et al.  
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Respectfully submitted,

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